



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

**CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000**

**IN REPLY REFER TO
OPNAVINST 3130.7A
N880E4
18 April 1994**

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3130.7A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: NAVAL AVIATION COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAM

Ref: (a) Doctrine for Joint Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR)
(Joint Publication 3-50.2)
(b) Navy Combat Search and Rescue Manual
(NWP 19-2 Supplement)
(c) Naval Special Warfare CSAR Operations (NWP 15-X-8)
(d) OPNAVINST C3501.244A
(e) HS Strike Rescue Qualification Course Curriculum
(D/E-2E-0500)
(f) Naval Warfare Documentation Guide (NWP-O)

Encl: (1) Helicopter Combat Search and Rescue Crew
Designation Procedures
(2) CNO Combat Search and Rescue Conference Procedures

1. Purpose. To implement a program to standardize Naval Aviation Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) policies, procedures, and training.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3130.7.

3. Background. Naval aviation assets may be tasked with rescue missions in hostile environments such as combat operations and crisis response operations. Past experiences with hostile situations requiring search and rescue have dramatically demonstrated the problems aircrews face when performing the mission. It is necessary to standardize training, tactics, procedures, and policies to achieve maximum CSAR operational effectiveness at acceptable risk to all participating units. CSAR must integrate capabilities of all air, ground, special warfare, surface, and submarine units that conduct CSAR and is an integral part of air and strike warfare.

4. Scope. This instruction applies to all aviation units and aviation activities capable of conducting or coordinating CSAR operations. It is also applicable to units and activities capable of supporting such operations, including Naval Special Warfare forces.



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5. General

a. Reference (a) prescribes doctrine for the planning and conduct of joint CSAR operations. References (b) and (c) establish naval CSAR tactical doctrine.

b. The Helicopter Anti-Submarine (HS) squadron is the primary choice to perform the CSAR mission due to the squadron's integration with the carrier air wing (CVW) aboard the CV and the ability of HS aircrews to participate in strike mission planning. HS squadrons have CSAR as one of their primary missions under the Strike Warfare mission area as delineated in reference (d). Squadrons flying the SH-60F aircraft are assigned two HH-60H helicopters for CSAR missions. In the absence of an embarked HS squadron, the HCS squadron/ detachment would be the choice. Organic CSAR assets within the Carrier Battle Group (CVBG) are prioritized as follows:

- (1) Embarked H-60 HS squadron/HCS detachment.
- (2) Embarked H-3 HS squadron.
- (3) Other helicopter assets.

c. Naval Reserve Helicopter Combat Support Special Squadrons FOUR and FIVE (HCS-4/5) also have CSAR as a primary mission. The squadrons conduct advanced training operations to allow for the capability to conduct medium threat level CSAR and Naval Special Warfare tasking. Additionally, the squadrons have the capability to forward deploy to land based sites to conduct CSAR and special warfare (SPECWAR) operations. These squadrons should be requested to provide assets in the following circumstances:

- (1) When medium threat level operations are imminent and an H-60 HS squadron is not deployed aboard the CV.
- (2) To augment an H-60 HS squadron's capability when extended combat operations are anticipated.
- (3) When land based CSAR/NAVAL SPECWAR operations are anticipated.

As external assets to the CVBG, use of HCS squadrons must be integrated and requested as part of the initial strike planning activities. Reserve forces are requested via the operational chain of command from Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force (COMNAVAIRESFOR).

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d. The active force helicopter CSAR training program uses existing HS squadron personnel and aircraft assets as delineated in enclosure (1). Initial training of HS squadron aircrews is conducted by the two HS Fleet Replacement Squadrons (FRS), in accordance with reference (e). CSAR Instructors (CSARIs) train a minimum of three designated crews per HS squadron. CSARIs also train follow-on instructors to instruct specific mission areas as appropriate.

e. CVW commanders are expected to execute medium threat CSAR using all aspects of airwing capabilities. This will require coordination of air-to-air, air-to-ground, command and control, suppression of enemy air defenses and indications and warnings.

6. Definitions

a. CSAR Sponsor. The Navy CSAR program is sponsored by the Chief of Naval Operations (N88). CNO in conjunction with the Navy Doctrine Command will ensure appropriate Navy representation at joint CSAR process action team (PAT) meetings as required. Normally, representatives are designated from those commands with the greatest expertise in subject matter under consideration.

b. CNO CSAR Conference. A Navy CSAR conference may be convened as required by CNO (N88) to resolve issues within the CSAR community. Generally, a conference will be held every 12 to 18 months. The conference objective is to update CSAR instructions, training, procedures, and equipment to ensure they are keeping pace with requirements. CSAR conference procedures are outlined in enclosure (2). Results of the CSAR conference shall be used to guide development of changes and revisions to appropriate NWP and reference (a). Conferences to review proposed changes to these publications may be held in conjunction with the CSAR conference.

c. Lead Agent. Individual Services, combatant commands, or Joint Staff directorates may be assigned as lead agents for developing and maintaining joint doctrine, joint tactics, techniques, and procedures (JTTP) publications, or joint administrative publications. The lead agent is responsible for developing, coordinating, reviewing and maintaining an assigned doctrine, JTTP, or joint administrative publication, (Joint Pub 1-02). As policy coordinator for the Navy, CNO (N3/5) has been designated as the Lead Agent for Joint Doctrine for Combat Search and Rescue, Joint Pub 3-50.2, per Joint Pub 1-01. Development and coordination functions are executed through the Navy Doctrine Command.

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d. Coordinating Review Authority (CRA). An agency appointed by a Service or combatant command to coordinate with and assist the primary review authority in doctrine development, evaluation, and maintenance efforts. Each Service or combatant command must assign a coordinating review authority. If so authorized by the appointing Service or combatant command, coordinating review authority comments provided to the designated primary review authorities should represent the position of the appointing Service or combatant command with regard to the publication under development, (Joint Pub 1-02). Naval Doctrine Command (NDC) has been designated the Navy's Coordinating Review Authority (CRA) for all Joint Publications.

e. Primary Review Authority (PRA). The organization assigned by the lead agent to perform the action and coordination necessary to develop and maintain the assigned joint publication under cognizance of the lead agent; (Joint Pub 1-02). Naval Strike Warfare Center (NSWC) is assigned as the Navy Primary Review Authority (PRA) for Joint Doctrine for Combat Search and Rescue, Joint Pub 3-50.2(series) and for Navy Warfare Publication 19-2, Navy Combat Search and Rescue as delineated in reference (e) (NWP 1-01 when issued).

f. Technical Review Authority (TRA). The organization tasked to provide specialized technical or administrative expertise to the primary review authority or coordinating review authority for joint publications, (Joint Pub 1-02). COMNAVSPECWARCOM, COMSTRKFIGHTWINGPAC/LANT, COMHSWINGPAC/LANT, COMHELWINGRES, and CARAEWPNSCOL are designated as Technical Review Authorities (TRA) for Joint Pub 3-50.2 (series) and NWP 19-2 per reference (f).

7. Responsibilities

a. Naval Strike Warfare Center (NSWC) shall:

(1) Act as Navy PRA for Joint Pub 3-50.2(series) and for NWPs addressing CSAR as assigned in reference (e), (NWP 1-01 when issued). As Navy PRA for Joint Pub 3-50.2 and follow-on JTTP, coordinate with Navy Doctrine Command regarding joint actions or for joint publication change proposals for incorporation in Joint Pub 3-50.2 series.

(2) Evaluate the CVW tactical program (TACPRO) and CSAR mission performance during predeployment training at NSWC Fallon, NV.

(3) Review CINCPACFLT/CINCLANTFLT validated CSAR lessons learned reported within the Navy Lessons Learned System (NLLS) or Joint Lessons Learned System. Forward these lessons learned to

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appropriate commands within the CSAR community for action. Publish bulletins, as necessary, to identify pertinent lessons learned and their evaluation to the CSAR community.

(4) Evaluate integrated tactics and applicable CNO projects and disseminate results to CSAR program principals listed in enclosure (2), paragraph 2.

(5) Evaluate CSAR and survival equipment as requested and disseminate results to CSAR program principals.

(6) Coordinate with COMNAVSPECWARCOM, COMHSWINGPAC/LANT COMSTRKFIGHTWINGPAC/LANT, COMHELWINGRES, and CARAEWPNSCOL for standardization of tactics and provide CVW CSAR results following NSWC deployments.

b. Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMNAVAIRLANT)/Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVAIRPAC) shall:

(1) Set Terrain Flight (TERF) and Evasive Maneuvering (EVM) training policy for HS squadrons.

(2) Set training policy for all Night Vision Device/Goggle (NVD/NVG) aircraft.

(3) Evaluate CSAR mission performance during Intermediate Training Assessment (ITA).

(4) Maintain a minimum of three CSAR-qualified crews per HS squadron. Aircrew shall be expected to conduct operations in low (SH-3H squadron) or medium (H-60 squadrons) threat levels as prescribed by references (a) and (b).

(5) Provide academic and flight CSAR training to all CVW aircrews, maintaining liaison with COMNAVAIRESFOR to ensure standardization of training.

c. COMNAVAIRESFOR shall:

(1) Establish and maintain liaison with NSWC, COMNAVAIRLANT and COMNAVAIRPAC to ensure standardization of training.

(2) Support CVWs and train with assigned HS squadrons in mission planning and pilot/aircrew training during NSWC training evolutions.

(3) Maintain one fully trained and deployable CSAR detachment per squadron ready to deploy on 72 hours notice to

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augment CVBG CSAR force structure.

(4) Coordinate with COMHSWINGPAC/LANT, NSWC and COMNAVSPECWARCOM for standardization of tactics and CVW CSAR performance during NSWC deployment and submit findings to NSWC, as required.

(5) Ensure the Reserve HCS training program accomplishes CNO-directed readiness objectives. HCS squadrons will maintain organic, self-contained training programs to accommodate these requirements.

d. Carrier Air Wing (CVW) Commanders shall:

(1) Maintain a CVW CSAR Tactical Program (TACPRO).

(2) Establish and maintain the Rescue Coordination Team (RCT).

(3) Exercise the RCT during predeployment training at NSWC Fallon, NV.

(4) Integrate CSAR as a principal component in all strike plans.

(5) Coordinate request with Carrier Battle Group (CVBG) commander for supplemental HCS CSAR detachments to augment battlegroup CSAR force structure.

e. COMHSWINGLANT/COMHSWINGPAC shall:

(1) Maintain a minimum of three HS CSAR instructors.

(2) Provide CSAR training in accordance with the CSAR training program delineated in reference (f).

(3) COMHSWINGLANT shall be responsible for the standardization and review of the CSAR and CSARI training program and syllabus.

f. Operational Test and Evaluation Force (OPTEVFOR) shall conduct Operational Evaluations (OPEVAL) of CSAR equipment as required by the CNO sponsor.



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HELICOPTER CSAR CREW DESIGNATION PROCEDURES
(Active duty)

1. Helicopter aircrews will be designated CSAR qualified following satisfactory completion of the CSAR training program, summarized in reference (e). Initial crews and follow-on relief crews are to be identified in sufficient time to maximize the effectiveness of the CSAR training program and minimize the negative impact on other squadron primary missions.
2. Each HS squadron shall maintain a minimum of three fully qualified, CSAR crews trained to operate in a low (H-3)/medium (HH-60) threat environment as prescribed in references (a) and (b). These crews shall be designated in writing by the squadron commanding officer. The squadron commanding officer will forward a copy of designation letters to Chief of Naval Personnel to obtain the appropriate AQD code for designated CSAR pilots.

Enclosure (1)

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CNO CSAR CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

1. General. The effectiveness of the CSAR program is largely dependent on reviewing and updating CSAR instructions, equipment, and procedures to ensure they meet current operational requirements. The formal CSAR conference is the primary means of carrying out this phase of the program. The procedures set forth in this enclosure are intended to ensure that maximum benefits are realized from these conferences. Results of CSAR conferences shall serve as a basis for responsible command actions to revise associated NWP's and Joint Publications.

2. Responsibility. The responsibility for scheduling, chairing, and conducting a CSAR conference rests with the CNO (N88). The voting membership shall be limited to CSAR principals which includes the Director, Naval Air Warfare Division (N88); Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Commander Naval Special Warfare Command; Commander Naval Air Reserve Force; Commander Helicopter Antisubmarine Wing, Atlantic; Commander Helicopter Antisubmarine Wing, Pacific; Commander Strike Fighter Wing, Pacific; Commander Strike Fighter Wing, Atlantic; Commander Helicopter Wing Reserve; Commanding Officer, Naval Strike Warfare Center; Commanding Officer, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School.

3. Conference Location. The CSAR conference location will be addressed separately in a convening announcement.

4. Convening Announcement

a. When the date of the CSAR Conference has been determined, the CNO PRA (NSWC) shall originate the convening announcement, at the direction of the CNO sponsor. Announcement of the CSAR conference shall be via message, and include as a minimum, all the CSAR conference voting members. It shall include the date and location; request for the names, grades, clearance data, command, and billeting requirements of the attendees; and deadline date for submission of agenda items. The convening announcement should precede the conference convening date by at least 60 days.

b. Voting members, upon receipt of the convening announcement, shall inform units within their commands as appropriate. Requests for agenda items should receive the widest possible dissemination throughout the CSAR community.

Enclosure (2)

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c. Voting members attending CSAR conferences must be qualified and authorized to speak for the command/units/squadrons which they represent in all matters pertaining to CSAR.

5. Conference Agenda. Agenda items shall be forwarded to NSWC no later than 30 days prior to the conference convening date.

6. Conduct of a CSAR Conference. CNO (N88) shall act as Chairman of the conference. The following procedures will be adhered to in conducting the conference:

a. Each voting member shall be limited to one vote. Proxy votes are not authorized. The CNO representative will make the determination of any voting procedures other than those specified here. Committees may be appointed to consider specific agenda items.

b. A record shall be kept of the agenda items discussed and the resulting decisions. That record shall be distributed to all conference attendees by NSWC, assigning follow-on action as appropriate.